

Califon Crier
The Borough of Califon
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Califon, NJ 07830

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Califon Crier

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Lower Valley Presbyterian Church Community Garden Service Project

By Councilwoman Judith Salisbury

What could be better than plucking a sun-ripened tomato off the vine, slicing it up, sprinkling it with olive oil and basil and popping it into your mouth! I love to garden and have always had a big one wherever I have lived. Since I have moved to Califon, however, I can no longer have a big garden because there are too many trees shading our backyard, not to mention the pesky deer and ground hog family that live in the barn next door. This year I have a solution! I hope others who love to garden but can't do it in their own backyard will be excited about this news!

The Lower Valley Presbyterian Church in partnership with the Califon Green Team will be sponsoring a community garden. The garden will be located in the back of the Presbyterian Church. Plots are now available for interested folks. Each plot will be a raised bed (3 1/2 ft. by 8 ft.). Water spigots, mulched pathways, and a deer fence are all part of the site. Up to two plots are available for each household.

Community gardens have great benefits for our town. It is a chance to interact with others with similar interests. It encourages self-reliance, produces nutritious food, and has the potential to provide a catalyst for other recreational activities. Future plans include a picnic area and a children's garden. Our Community Garden has the added benefit of providing a vital social service to a local food bank. All members of the garden will be asked to give time toward helping to manage garden beds for the Open-Cupboard Food Pantry. Community service, communing with friends, and growing organic food sounds like a formula for a great summer! We hope you consider joining us. Registration information can be found on www.califonboro.net, by email - lowervalleyipc@embarqmail.com or by calling the Municipal Offices at 908-832-7850 ext. 204.

Election News

The Primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. The election poll, located at the Califon Municipal Bldg., 39 Academy St., Califon, NJ 07830 will be open at 6:00am and will close at 8:00pm.

New resident? First time voter? The last day to register to vote in the Primary Election is Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Registration forms are available on line, at the office of the municipal Clerk (908) 832-7850 ext. 201 and at the office of the Hunterdon County Clerk (908) 788-1221.

Tuesday, May 29th is the last day to apply by mail for a Mail-In ballot for the June Primary Election. Applications for mail-in ballots are available at the office of the Municipal Clerk and at the H.C. Clerk's office or their website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/countyclerk.

Monday, June 4th - 3pm deadline to apply at the County Clerk's office **in-person** for a mail-in ballot for the June Primary Election.

Recent legislation has been passed that will allow the local school boards to vote to hold the school election for

new and incumbent school board members in the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The school budget would not be subject to public vote if the school board agrees to keep the school budget at or below the 2% CAP. Both the local Califon School Board and Voorhees Regional High School have voted to keep their budget at the 2% CAP and to have their election in November. The annual school election, originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2012 was not held but will be held on November 6, 2012.

Office of Emergency Management "Nixle" System

Califon Borough office of Emergency Management will be utilizing the "Nixle" communication system to notify the community in the event of a town wide emergency.

This system will allow the residents to obtain information via text message, email or mobile app. (text message rate may apply) It will allow Emergency Management to post messages in regards to severe weather warnings, evacuation orders and other critical information. To register for "Nixle", please log onto www.nixle.com. If you have any questions in regard to this system please email at bwolfmayer@califonboro.net.

CALIFON CRIER

www.califonboro.net

The Califon Crier is published on a bimonthly basis. If you have news, comments, or feedback, please contact the borough with "Califon Crier" in the subject line at kmastro@califonboro.net or leidsvaag@califonboro.net; phone (908) 832-7850; or fax (908) 832-6085.

Contributors:

Janine Ascenzo, Shannon Ayers, Barbara Baggstrom, Charles Daniel, Laura Eidsvaag, Melissa Fogg, Karen Mastro, Ann F. Ryan, Judith Salisbury, Gill Smith, Beth Wolfmayer

Deadline for July/August submissions: Friday, June 15.

Memorial Day Events

On Monday, May 28, 2012, the Califon Recreation Committee presents the 11th Annual Califon Memorial Day Parade. Starting at 11:00am on School Street, the parade--featuring Saint Ann of Hampton Drum and Pipes, the 15th New Jersey Volunteers Infantry Company A, antique cars, scout troops, area fire and rescue squads - will proceed down Main Street to Califon Island Park. In honor of those being remembered, Saint Ann Drum and Pipes will play from the center of the Califon Bridge. A memorial service will be held at noon next to the Califon Veterans Memorial. The National Anthem will be played by the Voorhees High School Band while local scouts raise the American flag. Afterwards, there will be food and drinks for purchase by Califon Fire Company, music by Voorhees High School Band students, Fun Fitness on Wheels, KIDZ ON THE GO, 18 hole Frisbee Golf Game and other activities for all.

For further details of the Memorial Day Celebration and for information on the status of the event due to inclement weather, please visit the Califon Recreation Committee's website at <http://thereccommittee.tripod.com> or call Gill Smith at (908) 832-2235.

Califon School News

Califon School proudly announces their honor roll students for the 3rd marking period. Sixth grade: Danny Haus, Caroline Pereira, Paige Peterson, Will Rodenberger and Alex Sickels. Seventh grade: Meredith Folsom, Ellie Gensch, Grace Gilbert, Taylor Hubiak, Cassie Oeckinghaus, Emma Riley and Sydney Stoter. Eighth grade: Helen Avery, Jonathan Baker, Evan Kozak, Charlie Rodenberger and Heather Thomasovich.

On April 3, the students of Califon School were treated to a special visit from actress AnnaSophia Robb ("Because of Winn Dixie", "Bridge to Terabithia", "Soul Surfer"), who was there to help introduce them to PeaceJam's curriculum. Miss Robb signed autographs and talked about the purpose of PeaceJam. PeaceJam connects leading Nobel Peace Laureates with the youth of the world. Their *Global Call to Action* campaign brings youth together to solve the most pressing issues of our time. PeaceJam has been nominated seven times for the Nobel Peace Prize. For more info, please go to: www.peacejam.org.

Califon School 8th grade graduation will be held on Thursday, June 14th at 7:00pm in the Califon School gym. Lindsay Owen, a 1999 Califon School graduate and a graduate of Duke University will be the guest speaker. The Califon School Kindergarten Graduation will be held on Friday, June 15th at 9:15am in the Califon School gym.

NJ School Funding and Property Taxes

Senator Mike Doherty, our NJ 23rd District Senator, recently visited our Town Council Meeting to discuss his "Fair School Funding Plan". While the attendance was low, Senator Doherty's message speaks to all those in Califon who believe their property taxes are exorbitantly high.

The message Senator Doherty conveyed was clear - 85% of NJ's municipalities, including Califon, are funding, through income taxes for school state aid, 15% of NJ's schools. For instance, when comparing Califon to Asbury Park, for every dollar of income tax Califon sends to Trenton, Asbury Park receives 15 dollars. Obviously, because Califon receives less state aid than what it contributes in income tax and much less state aid than Asbury Park, Califon must rely on property taxes to provide school funding.

With Senator Doherty's "Fair School Funding" plan, NJ's municipalities would receive the same state aid amount per student. If this occurred, Califon would receive \$1.35 in state aid for every \$1.00 sent to Trenton, an increase of over 450% in school funding. This increase in school state aid could lower property taxes significantly.

The issue of school funding in New Jersey will continue to be inequitable as long as the current system remains in place. Senator Doherty is pushing for change to the current school funding policy, working with his peers on government to make this change occur. You may want to consider this issue the next time you visit the polls on Election Day.

Califon School PTA

Clean out your closets and donate to the Califon School PTA Clothing Drive to help raise funds for our school. We will accept any clothing *and* accessories such as hand bags, belts and shoes plus any soft household items like bedding, curtains, and towels. We'll take bikes, hard toys (must fit in a 24 x 24 x 21" box) and stuffed animals too! We'll turn your used household items into 13 cents a pound for Califon School. Thank you for your support.

Drop off items between April 28 and May 17 at the Califon Municipal Building 39 Academy Califon, NJ. *Please place clothing bags neatly in front of garage bays.* Contact Shannon Ayers 832-7580 with questions.

RESIDENTS PLEASE NOTE

Due to the large volume of brush cleaned up after Hurricane Irene and the October snow storm and the huge associated cost involved, the Mayor and Council have determined that there will be **no brush pick up/chipping** this spring.

Girl Scout Gold Award

We would like to congratulate Olivia Baggstrom on her achievement of Girl Scout Gold Award. This award is equivalent to the eagle scout award for Boy Scouts. Her project was an event she organized called "Bark in the Park" This event helped the S & L Rescue, which is a local dog rescue in Hunterdon County which brings dogs from the Appalachian Region back to NJ to help them find homes. The event helped raise awareness about rescue dogs and also about how animals help people. There was a demonstration from the K-9 police dog of Washington Township and obedience from local dog trainers. Olivia raised over \$500 in donations for the S & L rescue and two dogs were adopted at the event.

Save a Life! Learn CPR!

Training for ages 10 and up can be held at the Califon First Aid Squad Building, your home, or office. For more information please contact Califon First Aid Squad at CalifonFirstAidSquad@gmail.com. **National EMS Week 2012 is May 20 - May 26!**

Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day

Hunterdon County is conducting a Household Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day on Saturday, July 14 at the Hunterdon County Library Complex, 314 State Rt. 12, Flemington from 9:00am until 1:00pm (rain or shine).

Up to 10 gallons or 80 pounds of the following will be accepted: Latex Paint*, Varnish/Stains, Herbicides, Gas/Oil Mix, Mercury, Oil Based Paint*, Insecticides, Pool Chemicals, Photographic Chemicals, Fuel Oil/Sludge, Fire Extinguishers, Paint Thinner, Pesticides, Aerosol Cans, Battery Acid, Diesel Fuel, Thermostats, Asbestos Pipe Wrap, Gasoline, Kerosene, Drain Cleaner and Fluorescent tubes**.

*Consolidate latex paints and oil based paints, keeping them type separated, to make full cans.

**Wrap fluorescent tubes in newspaper or put back in original sleeve.

Unlimited quantities of the following will be accepted: Used Motor Oil, Anti-Freeze and Automotive Batteries.

The following will **NOT** be accepted: Empty Containers, Pentachlorophenol, Tires, Radioactive Materials, PCB's, Electronics, Explosives, Silvex, Propane Tanks, Air Conditioners, Solid Waste and Helium Tanks.

For more information please contact the Hunterdon County Utilities Authority: (908) 788-1110, Fax-(908) 788-1662 or by email- hcu@co.hunterdon.nj.us.

Flyers are available on the website: www.califonboro.net and at the Borough Hall.

Computer and Electronics Collection Day

Hunterdon County is pleased to offer recycling of computers and electronics on Saturday, October 13 at the Hunterdon County Library Complex, 314 State Rt. 12, Flemington from 9:00am until 1:00pm (rain or shine).

Up to Ten of the following will be accepted: computers, monitors and televisions.

Un-acceptable items include: air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, propane tanks or hazardous wastes.

For larger quantities or commercial disposal of other items contact: Newtech Recycling, Inc. @ (732) 469-9774

Flyers are available on the website: www.califonboro.net and at the Borough Hall.

Califon United Methodist Church

Califon United Methodist Church is hosting a Youth Carwash on Saturday, May 5 from 10:00am to 1:00pm, 15 River Road, Califon. Cost is a donation of your choice. All proceeds go towards the Good Samaritan Fund. (Rain Date - Saturday, May 12)

Califon United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School 2012, Adventures on Promise Land! Come Explore Promise Island at UMC! Here on Promise Island, kids will discover God's lifesaving love. Monday, June 25 - Wednesday, June 27 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. For children ages 3 to 10 years old.

For registration information or volunteer opportunities, please contact Janine at (908) 832-8944 or jnrascenzo@comcast.net.

All children registered and their families are invited to join us for our VBS Kick-off Family BBQ following Worship on Sunday, June 24th. (Sunday Worship Hour is at 11:00am)